



St. Paul's Ev.
Lutheran
Church

May/June
2025

The Service of the Sacrament

Rev. Ryan Drevlow

The Service of the Sacrament is the second part of the Divine Service. It revolves around receiving God's Word in the Lord's Supper. The main parts of the Service of the Sacrament are the Preface, the Sanctus, The Words of Institution and the Peace and the Agnus Dei (The Lamb of God).

The Sanctus comes from both Isaiah 6:3 and Matthew 21:9. I love this part of the Divine Service the most because it is a reminder of what Isaiah saw. He saw God and when he did the Angels sang the "Holy, Holy." So, we too sing the "Holy, Holy" when we are about to see Jesus' body and blood on our altar. It is as though the boundaries between this world and the next grow very thin, and we can see the Marriage Feast of the Lamb. Why would we not sing to our God. This part of the Divine Service is recorded as early as 104 A.D. by St. Clement of Rome. So, we can identify with Isaiah and sing with

him but also sing with generations of Christians who believed and got ready to receive Christ's body and blood. I try to take off the veil during the Sanctus to remind us about the original story, look, see, here is God before us (or at least soon will be.)

The Words of Institution are heavy things. I remember the first time I spoke them. I stuttered and stammered. Because I knew that I was only one person in a long line of pastors and people who had spoken them or heard them for generations. These are the words Jesus himself spoke and now he has instituted or commanded His people to continue to speak them over bread and wine. And because in His words are promises that bread and wine are His Body and Blood, we know that truly in with and under the bread and wine there is Christ's body and blood or for us forgiveness of sins and renewal, refreshment, healing and life. We draw near in this feast alongside those who have gone before us in the faith. And we receive so much. We see that even in the Post Ascension church they were already speaking the Verba (another word for Words of Institution) as early as 50-60 A.D.

I always enjoyed the Peace. It is an interesting point. Since Christ is going to be with us soon, we have peace. This is of course having to do with Jesus telling us upon his arrival in the locked upper room, "Peace." (John 20:19,21, 26,) The Israelites often wondered if the Lord was with them or not. We know. He has come to be with us and so we know he does not hate us but rather loves us for he dwells with us in Word and Sacrament. So, we have peace.

The Agnus Dei is a recall to John the Baptist, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." (John 1:29). John later reminds us of this powerful lamb who sits on the Throne of God. (Revelation 7:9) All of creation bows down to worship him. He is the Lamb of Sacrifice. He is the Lamb of God. He is the Lamb Who Sits on the Throne. Thanks be to God he takes away our sin and makes us whole.

The Service of the Sacrament and its basic parts, the church has been singing for some 2000 years. These words were given to us in scripture but how we use them has been our culture, our tradition for thousands of years. It connects us all to those who have come before us and it connects us also to millions of people around the globe who do similar things every Sunday. These aren't just meaningless chunks of text that we sing and speak, they are our living and breathing faith and culture. We sing with all those who have gone before us and even the saints in heaven. I hope this little article helps you see it anew.

The Service of the Word

The service of the Word is exactly what it sounds like, it focuses on the Word. Where at the beginning of the service we focus on confessing our sins. That we are broken people in need of forgiveness and then hearing the words of forgiveness spoken by God through the pastor. Or at the end of the service where we receive the Sacrament, Christ's body and blood. Sandwiched in between those two is the Service of the Word in which we focus on God's Word found throughout Scripture.

We begin with the Introit, which as the name implies, is meant for us to actually enter into worship, and for the pastor to enter the altar area. The Introit is almost always a Psalm and so we with saints before us sing or speak these praises once again. Then we continue with the Kyrie. A cry for mercy to our Lord and King echoing the words of the ten lepers and the Canaanite woman (Matthew 15:22). It is another reminder that all that we have and need comes at the mercy of God. That He alone provides all good things. So, we cry out to Him as our heavenly father asking that He would have mercy upon us.

That leads us into the Hymn of Praise in which we have two options. The first is the *Gloria in Excelsis* which echoes the words the angels sang in announcing the Lord's birth. So, anytime we sing the Gloria we do so with the angels and shepherds remembering God's grace as He came down in the flesh as a lowly baby to save His people. It is a time to reflect on promise made in the Garden, to Abraham, to Moses, and how God kept that promise which we see now in Jesus. The other option is *This is the Feast* that is based on Revelation. This one is used more during the Easter as it focuses more on the resurrection and Christ as the victorious lamb who now reigns. In this we join the heavenly chorus and those who have gone on before us singing praises to the Lamb who has taken away our sin and has conquered everything for us.

We continue then with the Salutation and Collect of the Day. The Salutation announces that the Lord is coming to us in the readings that we are about to hear, and it sets the tone for the importance of what is to come. The Collect of the Day on the focus on the main message usually, though not always, found in the Gospel. So, it really hones us into what we should listen for as we hear God's Word.

Then, what we probably think of when we hear the Service of the Word, we get the readings. Hearing God's Word has always been a part of worship from the Jews in the synagogues to the early Christians who met in houses. There was a time in the early church that the readings were only epistles and the Gospel, but in more recent time we have added the Old Testament back into the service. In the Old Testament readings we hear of God's work before Christ, we hear the prophecies concerning Christ, and how God continued to show grace and mercy to His fallen people. The Epistle reading gives us counsel on how God's Word, His grace and mercy, is applied to us. What it means to walk as a child of God. Likewise, we hear in the Epistle how God's Word says what it will do. How it creates faith, gives forgiveness, strengthens God's people, and gives them hope of eternal life. Finally, we get to hear the Gospel readings. The Gospel almost always contains the words and deeds of Jesus which makes this the pinnacle of the readings. We hear directly from Jesus and all that He has done for us. This is also why the sermon is usually preached on the Gospel reading.

That brings us then to the last part of the Service of the Word and that is the sermon. We see that when Jesus sent out the apostles and the 72 that he commanded them to preach. So, sermons have been around a long time. In the sermon God's Word is directly applied to the hearers. The preacher does this by taking one of the readings or sometimes all of them and expounding on them and giving application to one's life. We believe that in the sermon God is speaking through the pastor, just as He does in Confession and Absolution. We call the sermon then the spoken Word. The Bible is the written Word and Jesus is the Incarnate Word, that is the word made flesh. Thus, in the sermon we once again have the Word but this time it is spoken directly to us in our day and age.

That wraps up the Service of the Word that is very much, as the name implies, focused on the Word. On hearing the Word, reading the Word, and having the Word applied to us in our lives. It is a wonderful way to begin the service, simply hearing God's Word and all that He has done for us.

In Christ, Rev. Smith

05/15/25

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings and salutations! My name is Rocco Fritz and I am very excited to work with you all in the coming months, to aid you in proclaiming the Gospel of Christ Crucified to your neighbors through song, but more on this later. First, I'd like to provide you with some background on myself and give you a sense of who I am.

I come from the great up-north state of Minnesota. With the Norwegian, "oh ya, you betcha" and potato tortilla known as Lefse, my home is in Breckenridge where my father is pastor and my mother works remotely as a clergy tax preparer. I only have one sibling, a thirteen-year-old brother who seems to be getting taller by the second and never ceases to remind me that I'm short (despite the fact that I'm taller by at least an inch).

For the past six months, I have been studying at Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska to become a full-time Director of Parish Music and leader of the Lord's song. Having just finished my sophomore year, I have sung in the Concordia Male Chorus (we call it Man Choir) and have rung handbells in the Concordia Ringers choir for three semesters. My primary instrument is the organ and I have played for services both on and off campus. During the school year I am the full-time musician at a small Lutheran church in Seward, where I play regularly and coordinate weekly music.

Many people often ask me how I got into music, or who sparked my interest in the craft. Music has always been my *forte* (pun intended). "What does that do?" I remember asking the organist from my Dad's field work congregation one Sunday afternoon. Sitting on the hard maple bench, my short six-year-old legs dangled midair as I stared at the massive, three-keyboard instrument before me. Like an airplane cockpit, tabs and buttons with funny names columned on either side of me. Some even glowed a bright yellow. The organist let me pick a funny little white tab off to my right and encouraged in her soft voice, "Push it down and play a key." As a result, a snarly trumpet sound echoed through the cozy sanctuary, turning my eyes into dinner plates with excitement. God used this moment to start me along the path of my musical journey. After about eight years of piano lessons, I finally took up organ lessons. Since then, God has used my musical skills as a tool to teach others about their shepherd, Jesus, who comes to them in His Word and Sacraments.

This is why I'm very excited to work with you in the coming weeks. The hymns and liturgy are a precious part of our lives as Christians because they proclaim the wonders Christ has done. Whenever you sing, "O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world," you are telling those around you about Christ's victory on the cross. Likewise, since Easter, you have no doubt sung, "Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God." These words from the hymn of praise, "This is the Feast," (Lutheran Service Book 155) remind those around you that Christ has conquered death and grave for them. This is why singing is so important. Through your voice, the Gospel is spread to the neighbors around you. Therefore, it is with great anticipation that I await the day when I am with you to encourage this jubilation of the Saints.

In Christ,
Rocco Fritz

KIDS FOR CHRIST



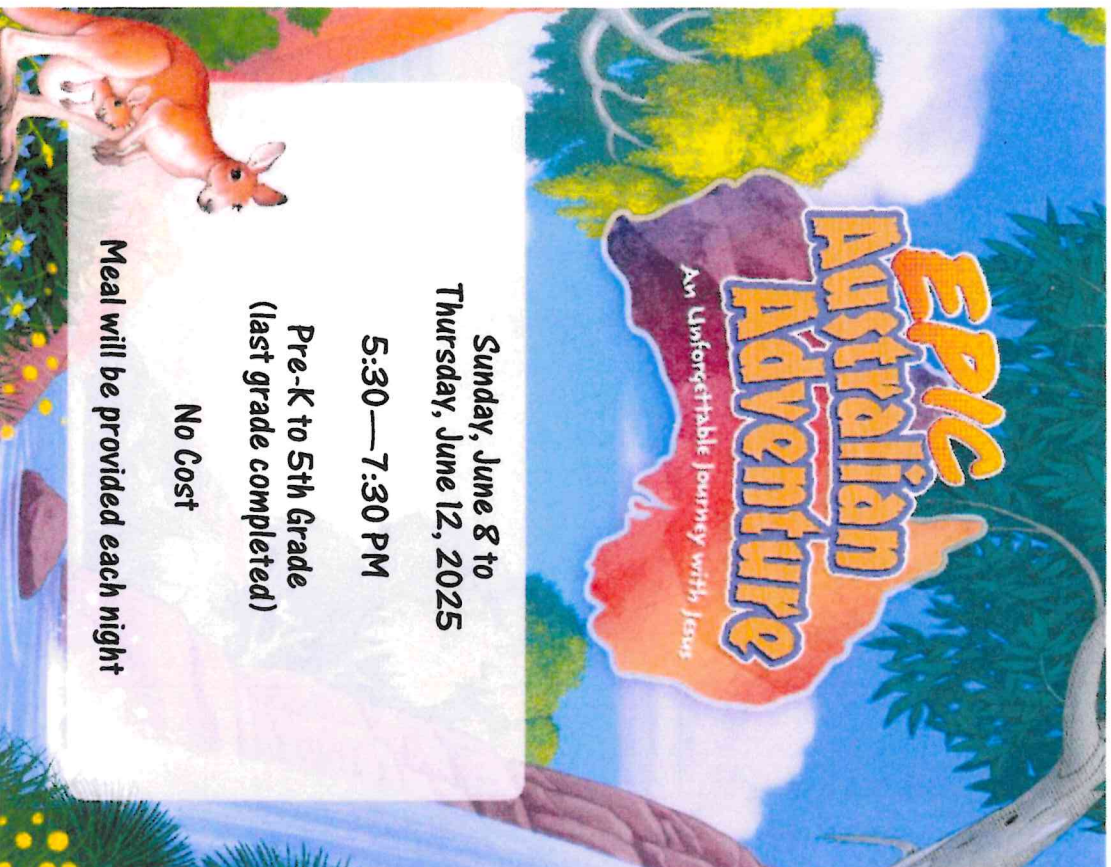
Kids for Christ has had a great year of fellowship, bible study and games galore. We started the year learning about fruits of the spirit and how we can show our love for Christ through our actions among our neighbors. We have made new friends and strengthened the ones we knew. We have eaten yummy food and have shared lots of giggles over chocolate milk mustaches. Our favorites of the year were snow cones, dodgeball against the leaders, scavenger hunts, ninja tag and crafting hundreds of bracelets and perler beads. We have had many visitors this year, it's been really fun to get to know the kids' friends and to share the love of Christ with them. The kids enjoyed a Christmas party, Valentine fun and Easter activities, they have learned what it means to do life together as brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank you for borrowing your kids to us, we can't wait until August when a new year begins. Love, Laura, Pastor Smith, Gracelynn & Joy



You're Invited!

Vacation Bible School at St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Join us for bible lessons, music, crafts and fun activities!



Sunday, June 8 to
Thursday, June 12, 2025

5:30—7:30 PM

Pre-K to 5th Grade
(last grade completed)

No Cost

Meal will be provided each night

Registration forms available at the church.

Questions, please contact Melanie Jacobson at 605-216-8060

Camp Minneboji

June 15 – June 21, 2025



*HIDDEN and
REVEALED*

Theme verse: 1 Corinthians 3:7



Lighthouse Preschool News

Teaching God's children about their Creator, Savior, and Friend while preparing them for a lifetime of wonder, learning, and service.

Summer 2025

Summertime Announcements:

May is here, and with it brings the end of our school year! The children have all worked extremely hard this year and have grown so much in their faith, academics, social and physical development! We finished our time together with a field trip to the arboretum and conducted our spring program and graduation ceremony. Thank you for all of your support and prayers this school year!

Please continue to pray for the preschool as we make plans for our new Jr. Kindergarten program! We are excited to announce that we have reached full enrollment and will be serving 12 students next year! We will accept names for a waiting list so if you know of anyone who would be interested in Jr. Kindergarten, please have them still fill out and turn in an application!

Thank You!

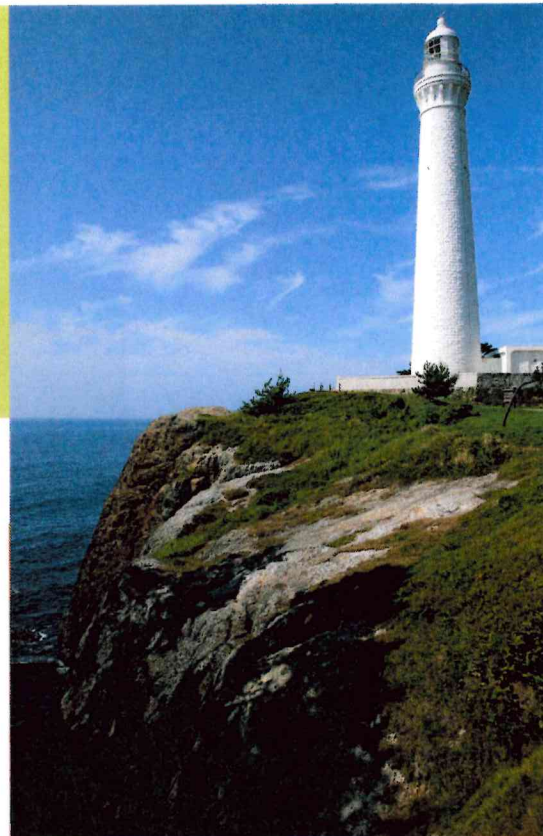
Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to our spring fundraiser raffle! It was a huge success! We raised \$2000 to supplement our tuition assistance program! Congratulations to Amy Schmitz, Kelsie Schwab, Jamei Bruckner and Carmen Holm who won this year's raffle prizes!

WE ARE HIRING!

We are looking to fill part-time positions in our aftercare program 3:15-5:30 M-F, and also on Wednesdays from 8-3:15. Positions can be combined. Must be able to begin working in August. Please contact the preschool at 605-725-1855 or talk to Jenelle Siebert for more information.

“Behold, Children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the Lord a reward.”

-Psalm 127:3



Upcoming Dates:

The activity at the preschool has slowed down quite a bit, but we are gearing up for the next year by:

-Making improvements to the facilities and playground.

-Making plans for next year's school year by ordering curriculum and materials for the new full-day Jr. Kindergarten program!

**St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church (LCMS)
& Lighthouse Preschool**

**Rev. Ryan Drevlow
Rev. Jacob Smith (586) 556-6077**



**Every Sunday
Divine Service @ 8am
Bible Study @ 9:30 am
Divine Service @ 10:45 am**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Coin Banks		7pm Elder mtg	10 am Bible Study 6:15 pm Worship			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:30 am Town Hall mtg 12:30 pm Prayer Serv. 5:30-7:30 VBS	5:30-7:30 VBS	5:30-7:30 VBS	10 am Bible Study 6:15 pm Worship. 5:30-7:30 VBS	5:30-7:30 VBS		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Camp Minneboji week	1:30-6pm Vitalant Blood Drive		10 am Bible Study 6:15 pm Worship	7pm RGI meeting		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Food Cart			10 am Bible Study 6:15 pm Worship			
29	30					